
Date

Certified Mail

Attention: _____

Subject: Disposal of Wastewater Pumped from Grease Interceptors and Traps

The discharge of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) is a leading cause of sewer spills, a serious problem in the San Diego region. To prevent this material from entering the sewer, many Cities in our region require restaurants to install grease removal equipment. To ensure that this equipment functions effectively, restaurants must periodically remove accumulated FOG and food solids from these devices.

Restaurants frequently utilize commercial pumping firms to clean their grease removal equipment and properly dispose of the removed material. _____ has been identified as a firm engaged in the cleaning of restaurant grease traps or interceptors within San Diego County or a hauler or treatment facility for such wastes. This letter is being sent to you to inform you of certain restrictions pertaining to the disposal of these wastes into the sewer within the Metropolitan Sewerage System (indicated by shaded areas on attached map).

The material pumped out of grease removal equipment is comprised of grease, fats, oils, trash, food solids, and water. Because of the high levels of grease, fats, and oils in this waste stream, the pumped material cannot, under any circumstances, be discharged into the sewer without treatment. Furthermore, even when such treatment is provided, no part of this material can be discharged back into the sewer without a specific permit authorizing this activity. Currently, two types of permits can be issued for this type of discharge:

Industrial User Discharge Permit: This type of permit is issued to facilities that receive grease trap/interceptor waste for treatment and wish to discharge the treated wastewater through a fixed sewer connection at the treatment facility.

Trucked Industrial Waste Discharge Permit: This type of permit is issued to facilities that receive grease trap/interceptor waste for treatment and wish to truck the treated wastewater to the City's dumping facility (Pump Station 1) for discharge.

Should your firm wish to discharge wastewater to sewer from the treatment of grease trap or interceptor waste, you must apply for and obtain one of the permits listed above before initiating such discharges. Permits will only be issued after the Industrial Wastewater Control Program has verified that the appropriate level of treatment has been provided. Permit information can be obtained by contacting the Industrial Wastewater Control Program at 858-654-4100.

_____ is further advised that the practice of discharging treated or untreated wastewater from a pumping vehicle into the sewer without the required permit is strictly prohibited. **The practice of decanting or discharging wastewater from a truck back into grease traps or interceptors constitutes an unauthorized discharge.** Furthermore, discharges of pumped grease trap or interceptor

wastewater to other unpermitted locations, such as carwash interceptors or manholes, is also prohibited. Unauthorized trucked waste discharges and the failure to obtain the required permit are prohibited under local and federal laws; violations may result in enforcement procedures up to and including civil or criminal penalties.

Sara Giobbi
Permit Supervisor, Industrial Wastewater Control Program
City of San Diego, MWWWD
Phone: 858-654-4104
Fax: 858-654-4110
SGiobbi@SanDiego.gov